BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 13-29* *July 22nd, 2013*

- **Consumer prices in B.C. fell 0.5% in June**
- **Manufacturing sales in B.C. increased 1.6% in May**
- **Investment in non-residential building construction in B.C. rose 13.3% in the second quarter**

Prices

- **Prices in B.C. fell (-0.5%) in June for the third straight month.** A 1.0% drop in the price of food, as well as lower health & personal care costs (-2.2%) contributed to the decline. Higher prices for fresh vegetables (+8.9%), fruit (+7.0%), and fish & other seafood (+2.5%) pushed grocery store bills 0.6% higher. Consumers paid less for meat (-0.2%), bakery & other cereal (-0.2%) products, and coffee & tea (-0.2%). The price of restaurant food fell (-4.2%) for the third month in a row, primarily due to the province's return to the Provincial Sales Tax.

  Shelter prices (-0.8%) continued to fall, a result of lower costs associated with owning a home (-2.0%). Water, fuel & electricity (+1.6%) prices increased modestly, as lower fuel oil & other fuel (-2.9%) prices dampened increases in water (+5.9%), piped gas (+2.5%), and electricity (+0.6%) prices. Household operations & furnishing prices were down 0.3%.

  Clothing and footwear costs were unchanged for the second month in a row. Clothing prices fell (-1.2%) with women's clothing prices dropping 5.5%, while the cost of men's (+5.6%) clothing increased, following two months of declines. Footwear (+4.4%) prices increased at the fastest rate since September 2012 (+5.0%).

  Transportation costs rose 1.4% in June, driven by upward pressure on gasoline (+3.2%) prices. The cost of public transportation (+0.9%) edged up, as pressure on city bus & subway (+6.3%) prices mounted.

  Health & personal care (-2.2 %) costs fell for the seventh straight month. Medicinal & pharmaceutical prices (-6.2%) dropped notably, alongside personal care (-2.9%) prices. Recreation, education & reading (-1.2%) prices edged down, as a result of lower costs of recreation (-2.7%), particularly recreational equipment (-5.7%) and home entertainment equipment (-8.1%). Education & reading (+1.9%) prices increased modestly. Alcoholic beverages & tobacco (-0.2%) prices fell with consumers paying less for liquor (-1.2%) and cigarettes (-0.9%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Nationally, prices climbed 1.2% in June.** Manitoba led the way (+2.7%), followed by Alberta (+2.3%) and P.E.I. (+2.2%). B.C. (-0.5%) was the only province to record lower prices. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Sales of goods manufactured in the province were up 1.6% (*seasonally adjusted*) in May, offsetting a 0.4% decline in the previous month.** Rising non-durable manufactured goods (+5.3%) sales drove the increase, as sales in the durable sector dropped (-1.3%) for the second month in a row. Sales by food producers rose 2.2%, the largest increase since March 2012 (+2.9%), and sales by paper (+0.9%) and chemical (+1.5%) manufacturers edged up, following declines.

  In the durables sector (-1.3%), sales by producers of wood products (-6.2%) fell, following four consecutive months of increases. Producers of non-metallic minerals (-0.2%), computer & electronic products (-1.3%), and

Did you know...

The population of grizzly bears in B.C. was estimated at 15,075 in 2012.

Source: Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

transportation equipment (-11.6%) also recorded lower sales. Primary (+16.4%) and fabricated (+5.3%) metals producers, along with manufacturers of machinery (+1.4%) and electrical equipment & appliances (+1.1%) fared better than other industries in the sector.

Nationally, manufacturers' sales crept up 0.7% (*seasonally adjusted*) in May, following two months of declines. Sales were up in 11 of 21 industries, accounting for 57% of total Canadian manufacturing. Saskatchewan (+5.8%) recorded the largest rise, while producers in Alberta (+2.1%), Ontario (+1.9%), Manitoba (+1.7%), B.C. (+1.6%), P.E.I. (+0.4%), and New Brunswick (+0.1%) saw modest increases. Manufacturers in Quebec (-2.8%), Newfoundland & Labrador (-1.7%) continued to see declines, while sales in Nova Scotia (-1.2%) were down following two months on the rise. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Investment in non-residential building construction in B.C. rose 13.3% (*unadjusted, 2007 constant dollars*) in the second quarter, compared to the same quarter of 2012.** This marks the third consecutive quarterly increase, driven by industrial (+37.4%) and commercial (+15.3%) construction, as investment in institutional and government projects fell (-0.3%) for the seventh straight quarter. Investment was 23.8% higher in Vancouver, but 4.5% lower in Victoria.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Wholesale sales in B.C. edged up 0.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) in May, increasing for the fifth month in a row.** Sales of food, beverages & tobacco leapt ahead 4.1%, and new motor vehicle parts sales were up 2.1%. The sharpest decline was in sales of building materials & supplies (-1.6%), followed by personal household goods (-0.9%), machinery, equipment & supplies (-0.5%), and motor vehicles (-0.3%). Nationally, wholesale sales were up (+2.3%), supported by Manitoba (+9.2%), Saskatchewan (+5.0%), Ontario (+2.7%), and Alberta (+1.5%). The only province to record a decline was P.E.I. (-2.8%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of motor vehicle sales in British Columbia dipped 0.6% (*seasonally adjusted*) in May.** Slipping sales of vehicles manufactured in North America (-1.8%) were behind the decrease, as sales of vehicles manufactured overseas advanced (+2.7%). Consumer demand for trucks (+2.1%), specifically overseas models (+11.5%), was up, while car sales continued to fall (-4.9%).

  Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada

Travel

- **The number of traveller entries to Canada via B.C. rose (+1.0%, *seasonally adjusted*) in May, for the first time since January.** Visitor entries from the U.S. were up (+1.3%), with increases in both same-day (+2.9%) and overnight (+0.4%) visits. Travel from overseas was flat, with rising visits from Asia (+1.5%), and no change in the number of entries from Europe offset by declining visits from the rest of the world (-3.6%), which fell for the fourth straight month. The number of Canadian residents returning from abroad rose (+3.8%), as re-entries from the U.S. (+3.9%) and the rest of the world (+2.5%) increased. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Labour

- **The number of British Columbians receiving regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits fell 1.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) to 50,930 in May.** Nationally, the number of EI beneficiaries was down 2.4%. The total number of recipients declined in every province except Newfoundland & Labrador (+0.5%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **There were 31,200 (*unadjusted, 3-month moving average*) job vacancies in April, 2,100 (+7.2%) more than in April 2012.** There were 5.3 unemployed people for every job vacancy, down from 5.8 people in the same period last year. The job vacancy rate was 1.7%, a hair above the national rate (1.6%), as well as the provincial job vacancy rate in April 2012 (1.6%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2013	% change on one year ago
BC	4,650.0	0.9
Canada	35,141.5	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Mar 2013	3,360	1.2
Merchandise Exports - Mar 2013	3,001	12.9
Retail Sales - Mar 2013	5,156	0.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Apr 2013)		
BC	-0.8	0.6
Vancouver	-0.8	0.8
Victoria	-1.3	0.4
Canada	0.4	1.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr 2013	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	9.5	
Labour Force - BC	2,471.0	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,312.1	0.4
Unemployed - BC	158.8	-8.3
		Mar 2013
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.4	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jul 17/2013	July 18/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.14	3.10
- 5 year	5.14	5.24
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jul 17/2013	July 18/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0425	1.0155
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9602	0.9894
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr 2013	% change on one year ago
BC	877.05	3.9
Canada	885.20	3.0

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

BC Community Health Atlas

On June 24th, the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), which partnered with a number of organizations including BC Stats, announced the release of the BC Community Health Atlas. Read about it here:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-06-28/BC_Community_Health_Atlas.aspx

2011 Census Profiles

We have added files for Health geographies, School Districts, College Regions and Ministry of Children and Family Development Regions. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Provincial Electoral District Profiles 2011

Posted to our Open Data page is a 2011 Census Profile for the Provincial Electoral Districts. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Population Estimates by Age and Sex 2012

Updated population estimates by age and sex for B.C. sub-provincial regions are now available. . . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Released last week by BC Stats

- Consumer Price Index
- Employment Insurance

To Release this week

- No Releases

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